

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A building protection system for controlling the flow of a utility, such as water or gas, through an inlet line into a building, comprising:

a valve disposed in the inlet line and having an open position permitting flow of the utility into the building and a closed position preventing flow of the utility into the building, said valve responsive to an electrical signal to move between said open and said closed positions;

a manual switch having a first state corresponding to said open position of said valve and a second state corresponding to said closed position of said valve, said switch operable to generate a state signal corresponding to the state of said switch;

a wireless transmitter connected to said manual switch and configured to generate a transmitted signal corresponding to said state signal, said transmitter being positioned remote from said valve; and

a wireless receiver operably associated with said valve and configured to receive said transmitted signal and to generate said electrical signal in relation to said transmitted signal.

2. The building protection system according to claim 1, wherein said switch and said transmitter is mounted in a hand-held remote control unit.

3. The building protection system according to claim 1, wherein said switch is a wall-mounted switch.

4. The building protection system according to claim 1, wherein said WIRELESS receiver is disposed proximate said valve.

5. The building protection system according to claim 1, wherein said valve is a latching valve.

6. The building protection system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sensing switch connected to said transmitter and operable to generate a sensing signal in response to sensing a leak of the utility in the building; and

said transmitter is configured to generate said transmitted signal in response to said sensing signal.

7. The building protection system according to claim 6, wherein said sensing switch is a water sensing switch.

8. The building protection system according to claim 6, wherein said sensing switch is a gas sensing switch.

9. The building protection system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of sensing switches connected to said transmitter and operable to generate a plurality of sensing signals in response to sensing a leak of the utility in proximity of the switch; and

said transmitter is configured to generate said transmitted signal in response to receipt of one of said plurality of said sensing signals.

10. The building protection system according to claim 1, further comprising an auto-dialer associated with said receiver and connected to a phone system, said auto-dialer configured to automatically dial a stored phone number in response to receipt of said transmitted signal by said receiver.

11. The building protection system according to claim 10, wherein said auto-dialer is operable to convey a pre-determined message through the phone system.

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13. The building protection system according to claim 12, wherein said sensing switch is a water sensing switch.

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14. The building protection system according to claim 12, wherein said sensing switch is a gas sensing switch.

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15. The building protection system according to claim 12, wherein said sensing switch is a temperature sensing switch operable to generate said sensing signal when the sensed temperature falls outside a pre-determined limit value.

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16. The building protection system according to claim 12, comprising:

a plurality of sensing switches connected to said transmitter and operable to generate a plurality of sensing signals in response to sensing a leak of the utility in proximity of the switch; and

said transmitter is configured to generate said transmitted signal in response to receipt of one of said plurality of said sensing signals.

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17. The building protection system according to claim 12, wherein said auto-dialer is operable to convey a pre-determined message through the phone system.